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STAR OF MYSORE

OUR EVENING DAILY

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RTOs resume DL tests under COVID shadow

NO FACE-TO-FACE CONTACT: ***RTO staff seen taking photo of a candidate through the camera fitted to a window facing the corridor as a precautionary measure.***

Mysuru, July 26 (MTY&BCT)- After three months of COVID-induced lockdown and a phased unlock process, the two Regional Transport Offices (RTOs) in city have resumed Learner's (LLR) and permanent Driving Licence (DL) tests. But as the RTO East and West have restricted the number of candidates taking the daily tests, there is a shortfall in revenue.

Karnataka Regional Transport Office has resumed registration of vehicles and issuing driving licences. The Transport Commissioner had issued a circular to resume operations across the State and subsequently, the city offices resumed services including issuing licences, secondary licensing, vehicle registration and transfer.

The Department had temporarily shut operations after the nationwide lockdown was announced in March this year, and has resumed operations after nearly three months of inactivity. *Star of Mysore* visited the RTO Offices in city and found the Departments following COVID-19 guidelines strictly.

Assistant RTO Safiuddin Khan of RTO East said that RTO Offices have restricted the number of applicants to 40 percent. The two offices have fixed the quotas of each job according to the number of officers and staff available. Applicants have to book slots online — through Sarathi software — on a day-to-day basis and the slots and the time is allotted for the candidate to take the DL or LLR tests.

FCs till September

"The process of issuing DLs and LLRs and transferring vehicle ownership has begun with restricted numbers. Only the process of Fitness Certificate (FC) is delayed as the Centre has extended the date of validity till September," ARTO said.

The Centre has extended the validity period of transport documents such as the driving licence, permits and registrations from its original expiry date till September. In an advisory issued by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, the Government asked all States and Union Territories to treat all documents related to the Motor Vehicles Act and the Central Motor Vehicles Rules as valid till September 30.

Before the COVID pandemic, each day over 100 to 120 candidates from both the RTO East and RTO West used to take the driving test at the Automated Driving Test Track at RTO East. Now, the number has been reduced to 80. "Here too, the number of candidates is reduced as many do not turn up for the tests due to virus scare," the ARTO added.

(See RTO on Page 10)

To Our Readers

Turn to Page-8 for Abracadabra titled ***"Nostalgically Speaking — 2: Mysore, a Pensioner's Paradise"*** *—Ed*

City-educated IT executive arrested in US for Coronavirus relief fraud

He studied Computer Science in University of Mysore

Bengaluru, July 26 (Agencies)- Mukund Mohan, who studied Computer Science in the University of Mysore and rose to be Director of Engineering at Microsoft in the US and who later turned into an entrepreneur and a start-up visionary, was arrested and charged by the US Attorney's Office with fraudulently applying for more than 5.5 million dollars in Coronavirus relief funds.

Mukund Mohan

Mohan completed his Computer Science course in 1992 at Sri Jayachamarajendra College of Engineering (SJCE). US prosecutors have alleged on Thursday that Mohan had applied for eight loans for six of his companies under the US Paycheck Protection Programme which aims at helping businesses amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

(See ARRESTED on Page 3)

Mysuru COVID-19 UPDATE

Figures as per Government Media Bulletin released last evening

Positive cases	:	187
Cumulative POSITIVE cases	:	2,637
Total ACTIVE cases	:	1,722
Persons discharged	:	808
Deaths	:	107

PRAY Safe STAY Safe
everyone has a reason to pray

STAR OF MYSORE

"We believe comment is free, but facts are sacred."
Editor: M. GOVINDE GOWDA, M.A.
Mysuru, Sunday 26th July 2020

Apply for Hoysala, Keladi Chennamma Awards

Mysuru, July 26- The Department of Women and Child Welfare has invited applications from children aged between 6 and 18 years for presentation of Hoysala Award for boys and Keladi Chennamma Award for girls (2020-21), who have exhibited courage in saving lives of others in distress. The award carries a cash prize of Rs. 10,000 and a citation. The incident should have happened between August-2019 and July-2020.

First Information Report (FIR) of the Police and newspapers featuring the story of the same should be submitted along with the application form. Applications can be obtained at the Department Office in Vijayanagar 2nd Stage, Mysuru.

Filled in application form along with all necessary documents in duplicate should be submitted to the Office before Aug. 21. For details, contact Ph: 0821-2498031 or 2495432.

Mysuru Citizens Forum distributes Grocery Kits to Journalists

Mysuru, July 26 (MTY&DM)- Continuing its initiative of coming to the aid of people during troubled times, Mysuru Citizens Forum (MCF) distributed Grocery Kits to Journalists at a programme organised at Suttur Mutt at the foot of Chamundi Hill here on Saturday.

Suttur Mutt Seer Sri Shivarathri Deshikendra Swamiji, who graced the occasion, said that the Forum had distributed thousands of Grocery Kits to the poor and the needy during the COVID-19 lockdown period and it is glad to note that the kits are now being distributed to Journalists, who are also very much part of the battle against the deadly pandemic.

Mysuru District Journalists Association (MDJA) President C.K. Mahendra, Secretary K.J. Lokesh Babu and others were present on the occasion.

EDITOR'S BOTTOMLINE

[Courtesy: Deccan Herald]

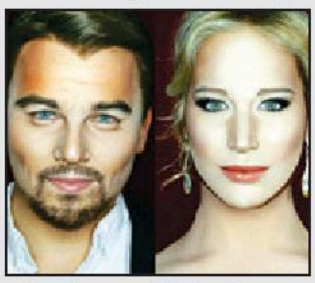
NEWS SPARKLERS

Marine-themed cakes are the coolest treats

Kuala Lumpur: The Covid-19 pandemic has made vacationing in a tropical island paradise a lot harder this year, but you can satisfy your craving for tropical destinations as well as your sweet tooth with some ultra-realistic paradise island cakes. We didn't even know something like that even existed, but it turns out some cake masters are so skilled that they can recreate a tropical island setting using regular baking ingredients, food coloring and jelly.

Looking at some of these elaborate cakes, it's hard to believe that they are 100% percent edible. Just look at the details in some of them, from the foamy waves to the marine wildlife and even the edible sand. Reminiscent of the cool dye-injected jelly cakes of Malaysian cake artist Siew Heng Boon, these intricate island cakes also feature layers of sponge and various creams, which act as the "land" parts of the design. The blue-colored jelly obviously makes up the marine parts.

Male makeup master transforms himself into any celebrity



Manchester: Alexis Stone, a makeup artist is so skilled that he can virtually transform into anyone, including male and female celebrities, movie characters and historical figures. Elliot Joseph Rentz, aka Alexis Stone, is a drag queen and online influencer from Manchester, UK who rose to fame for his talent of using makeup to transform into various pop icons, from Leonardo DiCaprio to Adele. Some of his impersonations are so good that most people think his photos are digitally altered, but the artist swears that it's all in the makeup.

For the past two years, Alexis Stone has been busy both building a successful business around his makeup skills, and raising a loyal social media following.

HEALTH CAPSULE by Bron Smith

Can drinking filtered water lower my cancer risk?

The President's Cancer Panel reports that home-filtering water can lower cancer risk by removing potentially carcinogenic chemicals found in public water supplies. It suggests that filtered tap water is often safer than bottled water. Store water in stainless steel or glass to avoid BPA leaching.

** Health Capsules is not intended to be of a diagnostic nature.*

Digital installation of ISHRAE Student Chapter at MIT Mysuru

Mysuru, July 26- The new Committee for the academic year 2020-21 of ISHRAE (Indian Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-conditioning Engineers) Student Chapter was installed at the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Maharaja Institute of Technology (MIT), Mysuru, on July 17.

Installation was held through a digital platform and over 60 participants were present. The dignitaries present on the occasion included Dr. B.G. Naresh Kumar, Principal, MIT Mysuru, Dr. S. Murali, President Maharaja Education Trust (MET), Dr. Mohamed Khaisar, Professor and HoD, Mechanical Engineering, MIT Mysuru, H.M. Sujatha, President, ISHRAE - Mysuru Chapter, Prof. G.D. Chethana, Faculty Advisor & Student Chair, ISHARE, Mysuru Chapter.

On the occasion, a talk on 'Innovative ideas in AC products — Cool Helmets' was delivered by guest speaker Kausthub Koundinya, Founder & CEO of Jarsh Innovations Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad.

Really...?

- *Drinking Grapefruit juice while taking some prescription medications can cause instant overdose and death.*
- *According to one study, avocados are the most nutritious fruits in the world.*
- *Square Watermelons are grown by Japanese farmers for easier stack and store.*
- *Apples, peaches and raspberries are all members of the rose family.*

LAUGHTER THE BEST MEDICINE

Why did the kid throw his clock out of the window?

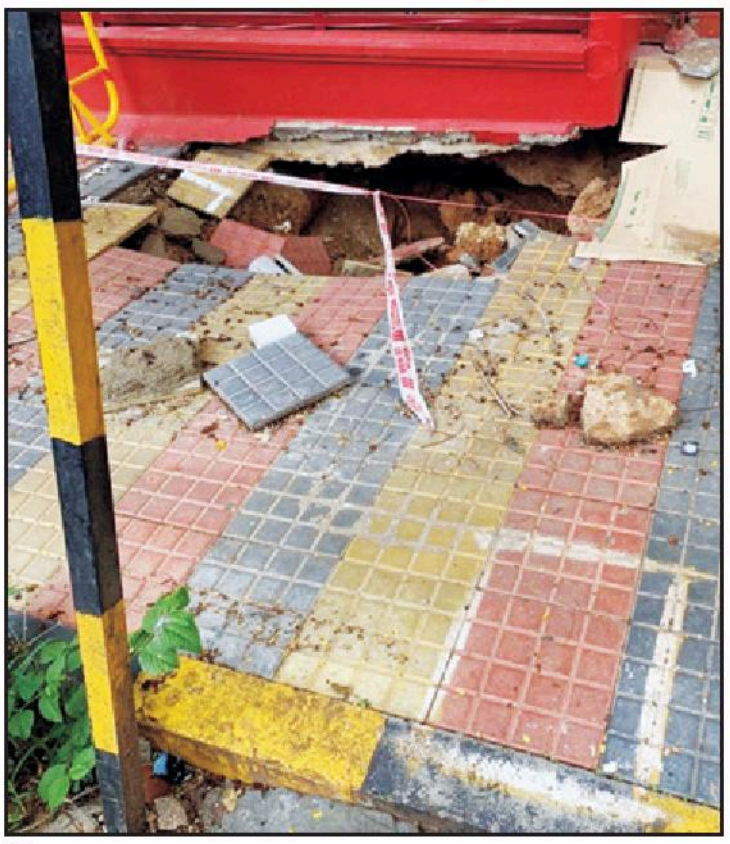
Because he wanted to see time fly!

Today's Currency Rate

1 US Dollar	= Rs. 74.72
1 UK Pound	= Rs. 95.58
1 UAE Dirham	= Rs. 20.34
1 Euro	= Rs. 87.10

VOICE OF THE READER

Sorry state of roads in Mysuru



Sir,

I often read the views of readers in *Star of Mysore* posting pictures and comments on the poor job done by Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) in spending tax-payers money in improving the life of the citizens and in maintaining infrastructure.

The picture above is just one of the many poor state of the road and side walk on Kalidasa Road. It has been in this sorry state for over 10 months.

I would like to know if the MCC has appointed maintenance contractors for road, sidewalks, storm water drains, water and regular drainage. If this has been done it is the right of the residents to know the scope of work and also what the civic body is doing to penalise residents who do not observe civic rules.

I have worked for about 40 years abroad and I wish to share my experience and thoughts of the impressive work done by the City Municipality in keeping their city spotlessly clean and thereby provide clean, healthy and obstruction-free environment to its citizens. The Municipality (via tender) appoints contractors for each municipality wards for street lighting, electrical distribution, under ground drainage, water supply, garbage collection, road cleaning etc., for a period of 3 to 5 years.

When the contract is awarded, the public is informed through media the details of the Contract, Contract Identification Number, Name of Contractor, Period of Contract, Area-wise, Amount of the contract, Contact number of the Contractors Call Centre, Contact number of the Municipal Call Centre (manned 24x7).

Any citizen or resident can call up the call centre to register a complaint of garbage not removed, water leakage, potholes, street light not working (every street light post has a number painted on the post). And in response, the complainant gets an SMS with the complaint register number for follow up or an SMS to inform the complainant that the complaint has been attended to.

The contractor is obligated once the complaint is registered (online) and a work order is automatically or manually generated by the system or the Call Centre Operator, is received he has to attend to the complaint writing 4 hours of receiving the complaint. If the contractor feels he need a long period to complete the work order he has to get in writing from the Municipality an NOC for the delay. Failing which the penalty is so high (calculated on a per day basis for each delay).

Municipality Staff are assigned to each ward and for each trade must drive around his assigned area to look for repair works that need to be done and also check call centre generated work order status, photograph the progress or completion and then only close the work order. Why can't such a system be implemented in India? It saves tax-payers money.

—George Rego
on e-mail

Mysuru
22.7.2020

Mysuru district reports

187 fresh COVID cases, total COVID deaths cross 100 on July 25

Mandya sees 60 new cases, Kodagu reports nine fresh cases and Chamarajanagar district reports 22 new cases

Mysuru, July 26 (KS)- Mysuru district reported 187 fresh COVID-19 cases yesterday (July 25), bringing the total positive cases in the district to 2,637, according to the media bulletin received last evening.

A total of 808 patients have been discharged so far including 59 patients yesterday. There are a total of 1,722 active cases and eight new COVID related deaths were reported bringing the total number of deaths to 107.

The following are the COVID statistics of Mandya, Kodagu and Chamarajanagar, according to the State media bulletin yesterday evening.

MANDYA

The district has reported 60 new COVID cases bringing the total number of positives to 1,127. A total of 783 patients have been discharged so far including 44 patients yesterday.

There are a total of 335 active cases and five COVID related deaths have been reported so far.

KODAGU

Nine fresh COVID positive cases were reported yesterday bringing the total cases to 322 in the district. A total of 236 patients have been discharged and the district has reported five COVID related deaths so far.

CHAMARAJANAGAR

Twenty two fresh COVID cases have been reported in the district bringing the total cases to 477. A total of 250 patients have been discharged so far including 18 patients yesterday.

Total active cases in the district now stand at 221 and six active cases have been reported so far in the district.

City-educated IT executive arrested in US for Coronavirus relief fraud

(Continued from page 1)

These loans are given to employers for retaining their workers and if used for the purpose, it could later be converted into grants with the employer no longer requiring to repay it. However, in Mohan's case, it was found that he did not employ even a single person in those companies, and in fact, some of them did not even have a business.

Mohan is currently employed as Chief Technology Officer at BuildDirect.com Technologies Inc., a website that connects people with home contractors. Previously, he had worked for Amazon.com Inc and Microsoft Corp.

Mohan became a popular face in Bengaluru's startup ecosystem when he moved here from the US in 2008, first to start a venture of his own and then to lead Microsoft's startup accelerator programme.

Prosecutors alleged that the federal loan documents contained a multitude of falsehoods. In one application, Mohan said one of his companies paid more than 2.3 million dollars for payroll in 2019 and that the company had dozens of employees. In reality, Mohan acquired ownership of the company in May, and it had no employees, according to the US Attorney in Washington.

The US Attorney's complaint states that "Mohan submitted fake and altered documents, including fake federal tax filings and altered incorporation documents." Mohan is alleged to have transferred the money he received to his personal brokerage account with financial services company Robinhood.

One of the companies he applied for a loan was called Mahenjo. The complaint alleges that Mohan made false and misleading statements about it, including that on Feb. 15, 2020, the company was in operation and had employees for whom it paid salaries and payroll taxes or paid independent contractors. He allegedly claimed that in 2019, Mahenjo's payroll expenses were more than 2.3 million dollars and that Mahenjo's average monthly pay expenses were 172,250 dollars. The complaint says Mahenjo was actually a shell company.

ASHA workers to lay siege to CM's residence on July 29

Mysuru, July 26 (PM&SD)- Strongly condemning Government's inaction, the Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) are going to lay siege Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa's residence on July 29.

Speaking to reporters on Saturday, All-India United Trade Union Centre (AIUTUC) District Secretary Chandrashekar Meti said, "As our demands have not been met, we have decided to intensify our agitation. ASHA workers are going to lay siege Chief Minister Yediyurappa's residence as well as Deputy Commissioner's offices in all the 30 districts of the State on July 29."

Obituary

K. Karunakaran

Mysuru, July 26- K. Karunakaran (78), retired KSRTC Chargeman and a resident of R.S. Naidu Nagar passed away yesterday in city.

He leaves behind one son, three daughters and a host of relatives and friends. Last rites were performed at the foot of Chamundi Hill this afternoon.

N.D. Nagamma

N.D. Nagamma (88), wife of ex-serviceman and retired Principal late Y. Ramaswamaiah and a resident of Shakthinagar, passed away yesterday morning in city. She leaves behind three sons, two daughters, grandchildren and a host of relatives and friends.

Last rites were performed at the foot of Chamundi Hill today.

Alhaj Hazarath Abdul Kareem Sha Khadri

Sufi Saint Alhaj Hazarath Abdul Kareem Sha Khadri alias Chote Saheb (100) of Hazarath Bandagi Sha Makan, Muthawali Masjid Meer Hayath Saheb, passed away at his residence on K.T. Street in Mandi Mohalla yesterday.

He leaves behind his wife, three sons, one daughter, grandchildren and a host of relatives, friends and devotees,

Namaz-e-Janaza was performed at Masjid Meer Hayath this afternoon, followed by the burial at Makan Bandagi Sha on K.T. Street, according to sources.

Abhishek Baghmar

Abhishek Baghmar (30), a businessman and a resident of Kabir Road in Mandi Mohalla, passed away yesterday at a private hospital in city. He leaves behind his grandparents, parents, wife, one son and a host of relatives and friends. Last rites were performed today in city.

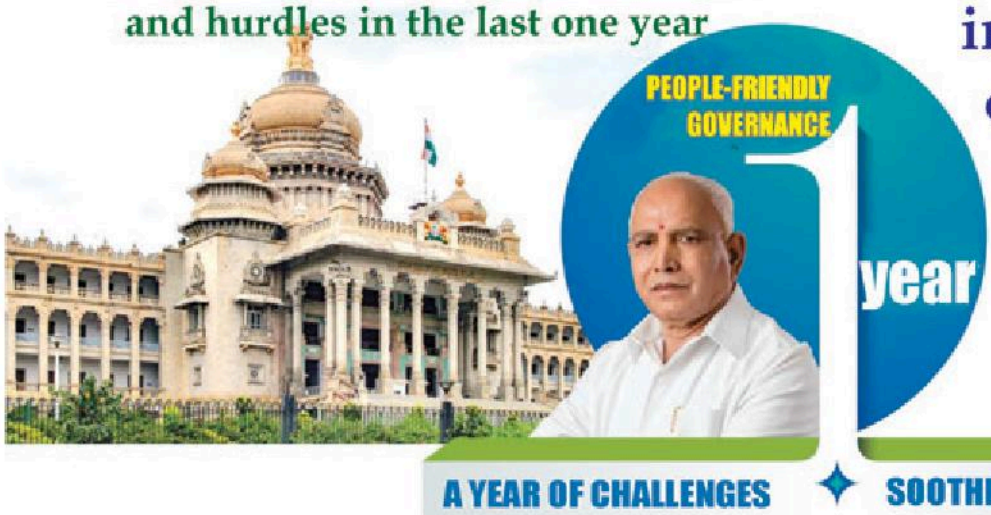
Narasimhegowda

Mandya: Narasimhegowda (82), former Zilla Panchayat member and a resident of Hosakote village in Pandavapura taluk, passed away yesterday following a heart attack. He leaves behind sons Dr. H.N. Ravindra and Babu and a host of relatives and friends.

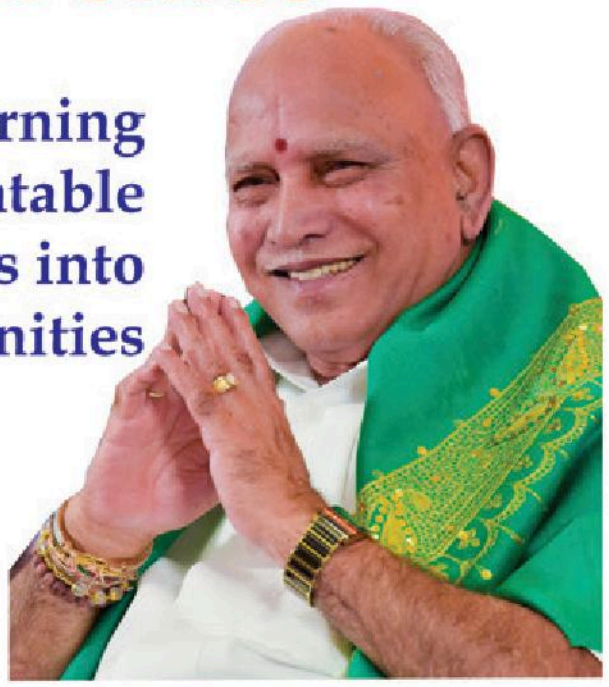
Last rites were performed at Hosakote this morning.

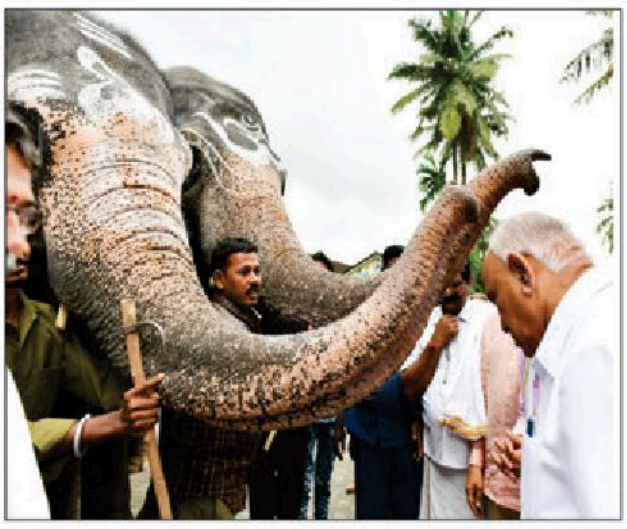
B.S. Yediyurappa Government completes successful one year in office

Ever since B.S. Yediyurappa came to power, he has strived hard for economic stability in Karnataka amid multiple challenges and hurdles in the last one year



Turning insurmountable challenges into opportunities





JULY 26, 2020 - A YEAR FULL OF CHALLENGES BUT PRO-PEOPLE WELFARE SCHEMES AND DREAMS FULFILLED

From flood situation across the State to current COVID-19 pandemic, ever since B.S Yediyurappa took over the administration of Karnataka, he had to face a series of challenges, which he has fought with courage and determination.

A true leader would have a compelling vision to help steer people forward. He would know what kind of development activities should be undertaken and will have a foresight to help others see the way forward.

Chief Minister B.S Yediyurappa has always fought for people's causes. When he took charge of the State as Chief Minister on July 26, 2019, one of the biggest challenges he had to face was torrential rains which wreaked havoc because of which over 119 taluks in 25 districts were declared as flood-affected areas.

Flood management

Together with Rs. 1,869 crore allocated by the Centre, the State Government sanctioned over Rs. 6,108 crore and took up relief and rehabilitation measures in the flood-affected areas. Being an experienced administrator, Yediyurappa effectively managed the situation and implemented speedy flood relief measures to control the situation. He personally conducted aerial survey with Home Minister, held talks with the Central Government, which sanctioned enough funds to manage the crisis. He was able to keep in touch with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and effectively handle the flood situation.

Prime Minister Narendra

Modi introduced the concept of self-reliance to the nation and Yediyurappa is working round the clock to make it a reality by implementing various projects in the State.

A balanced budget

When he took over charge, the State was facing financial crisis, but he was able to present a balanced budget which focused on overall development of the State with special emphasis given for farmers, Hyderabad Karnataka region and industries.

The Hyderabad-Karnataka region, which enjoys special status under the Article 371J of Constitution, was renamed as Kalyana Karnataka. Chief Minister B.S Yediyurappa set aside Rs. 780 crore to effectively implement Jal Jeevan Mission, a Central Government initiative which aims to ensure access of piped water for every household in India, in over 23.57 lakh rural households of the State and build roads in rural areas under Chief Minister Grameena Sumarga Yojana.

Wings for hope

Kalaburagi and neighbouring Bidar now have airports giving wings to hopes of more equitable development in the region. Yediyurappa participated in the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, showcasing investment opportunities in Karnataka and held talks with over 40 companies and industrialists.

One of the latest challenges faced by Yediyurappa is that of COVID-19 pandemic. When reports of viral outbreaks started making headlines in neighboring States in month of January, Yediyurappa Government started taking up all necessary precautionary measures and by second week of March, public awareness programmes were held all across the State. Schools and colleges were closed down in the earlier stages of pandemic spread. Karnataka became the first State to effectively implement lockdown in the whole nation.

Migrant workers taken care of

In an effort to safeguard the interests of students, traders and migrant workers, a number of measures were taken up in the State. Fever Centres were set up all across the State for the first time in the country. The Government announced a relief package of Rs. 2,272 crore to help workers engaged in unorganized sectors, farmers, small vendors, weavers, auto and taxi drivers, barbers and washermen.

Yediyurappa sanctioned Rs. 98.29 crore, brought farmers, fishermen and weavers under the ambit of loan waiver scheme and as a result, over 29,621 weavers of the State became beneficiaries of the project. Later, to ensure that all weavers would get benefited, the Government decided to reimburse the loan amount of up to Rs. 1 lakh that has been paid by weavers from January 1 to March 31 in 2019.

In an effort to effectively combat the spread of COVID infection, smart kiosks were set up in over 15 centres all across the State. Apthamitra helpline, 14410, became operational in the State exclusively for COVID-related queries, telemedicine, counseling and facilitating testing.

Interested youth now buy land and adopt modern farming methods

To boost farming activities, the State Government made amendment to the Karnataka Land Reforms Act, which would allow non-agriculturists to buy agriculture land and ensure growth of agricultural and industrial sectors in the State.

Earlier, youngsters, including those working IT/BT industry who were very keen on farming activities and willing to adopt modern farming methods, were not able to buy land in the State. But now, interested youth can buy farmland and start farming activities with new zeal.

End of monopoly - More power to farmers

Farmers can now choose the market to sell their produce based on where trade is fair and pricesare attractive. Earlier, farmers were forced to sell in APMCs and where middlemen would snatch away profits. Now they can sell their produce wherever they want and at attractive prices directly to buyers. This has become reality for farmers after Chief Minister B.S Yediyurappa decided to bring amendments to APMC Act.

Advt.

A TOUCH OF RELIEF AMIDST DAUNTING TASKS

Karnataka stands as a model in tackling COVID-19

As soon as COVID-19 pandemic began to spread across Karnataka, the alert State Government announced a complete lockdown, shutting down all educational Institutions and all commercial activities across the State.

Karnataka was the first State to declare lockdown in the country and effective implementation of the lockdown measures resulted in checking the spread of the deadly pandemic. As the State went under complete lockdown, the Government came to the rescue of the poor and needy by distributing food and grocery packets to them. The Government also distributed ration for three months for free in advance to all BPL card holders and all others in need of it.

But despite all precautionary and safety measures in place, COVID-19 positive cases unfortunately began to rise subsequent to relaxation of lockdown norms and the Government as a healthcare upgradation, is improving the infrastructure in Hospitals to treat the deadly virus.

The State Government has the distinction of conducting the highest number of COVID-19 test among households.The Government has set up a 10,100 bed capacity COVID Care Centre at Bharath International Expo Centre, which is touted as the biggest in the country.

The Government, as a relief measure for people belonging to the working class, announced Rs.2272 crore package for workers from the unorganized sector, horticultural crop growers, auto and taxi drivers, weavers, barbers, washermen and the like. It also announced interest-free deferment of power bills for industrial and domestic power consumers.

Youth trained in skill development

As a measure to provide more employment opportunities for youth, the Government is training the youth in skills in accordance with the Industry requirements.A skill connect portal has been set up for the purpose of bringing all job aspirants under one platform, which works as an engine for upgradation of skills in keeping with the latest advancements. Apart from this, the Government, in keeping with Bengaluru's fame as a Global Investor Hub, has expedited Sub-urban Railway network and Metro projects.The Government is striving for making Prime Minister Narendra Modi's mantra of life and living, a big success.

Big Industrial push

Although the State is facing challenges in many fronts such as COVID-19 pandemic, floods and other natural calamities and global economic recession, the Government is giving a big push for industries by attracting global investments in the industrial and services sector. Apart from making efforts for bringing stability to the economic status of the State, the Government has succeeded in luring industries from sectors such as Aerospace, Food and Transport, Food Processing and manufacturing.

Karnataka has the distinction of opening up economic and commercial activities based on the Centre's guidelines following relaxation in lockdown. The Government has speeded up efforts to lure Industries that are preparing to leave China, for which a task force headed by the Chief Secretary has been formed. As another measure to attract industrialists, the Government has made amendments to Karnataka Land Reforms Act that makes it easier for purchase of necessary lands. Also, the labour laws too have undergone reforms, which enables women to work in night shifts.

In yet another measure, the Government has made Kalaburagi and Bidar airports operational and the works on Shivamogga Mini Airport too has gained traction. The Belagavi Dharwad direct railway link has gained tactical approval, which cuts down the travel time between the two industrial cities.

Karnataka has Financial Stability

Amid the big financial crisis triggered by the outbreak of COVID-19, the Government is working towards comprehensive development of the State, by eradicating regional imbalance. In this backdrop, the Government renamed Hyderabad-Karnataka region as 'Kalyana Karnataka' region. A task force has been set up for ensuring the overall growth and industrial progress of the six districts coming under the region.

Although the entire world is reeling from global recession, the State Government, despite facing challenges from different fronts such as natural disasters and COVID-19 pandemic, has been successful in maintaining financial stability. Also measures have been taken for the comprehensive growth of the State as can be seen in the budget presented by Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa, which has proposed to give a big boost to almost all sectors alike.

Advt.

Bookanakere Siddalingappa Yediyurappa

The man who quit Government job and formed a Government of his own !

Bookanakere Siddalingappa Yediyurappa is a witty man who quit his Government job and entered politics forming his own Government, albeit decades later. Born to Siddalingappa and Puttathayamma couple at Bookanakere in K.R. Pet taluk of Mandya district on Feb. 27, 1943, B.S. Yediyurappa lost his mother when he was just four years old.

After completing his Pre-University education at PES College in Mandya, Yediyurappa joined the Social Welfare Department as a first division clerk in 1965. Later, he quit his Government job and moved to Shikaripura in Shivamogga district, where he joined the Cotton Mill owned by Veerabhadra Shastry.

Influenced by the principles of RSS, he joined the Hindu outfit and married his Mill owner Veerabhadra Shastry's daughter Mythra Devi in 1967. After his marriage, he opened a hardware shop, when he took a plunge into public service by becoming the head of Shikaripura RSS unit in1970.

Yediyurappa entered the Karnataka State Assembly as a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLA for the first time in 1983 defeating his nearest rival Venkatappa. Yediyurappa, who raised his voice against the Government in his own inimitable style as a member of the Opposition, drew the attention of his fellow Legislators and the party top brass. Yediyurappa, who got elected from Shikaripura Assembly segment for four successive terms, became the Leader of the Opposition in 1994, true to his reputation as a fighter.

He, however, tasted defeat for the first time in the 1999 Assembly polls. But the BJP top brass, reposing faith in his leadership, appointed him as the State BJP Chief the same year.

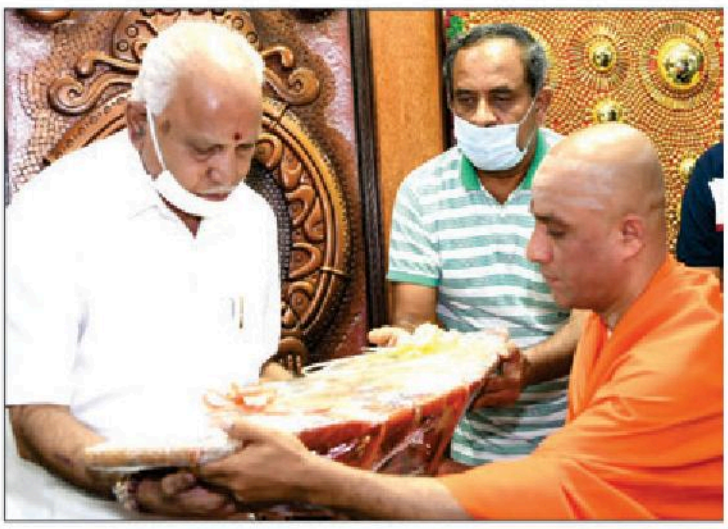
Yediyurappa again got elected from Shikaripura for the fifth time in the 2004 Assembly polls and became the Deputy Chief Minister in the JD(S)-BJP Coalition Government in 2006. Later, Yediyurappa became the Chief Minister in 2007 as per an understanding reached with the then coalition partner JD(S).

But his joy was short-lived as the JD(S) failed to extend support to his Government as promised and he had to quit the post after about a week. Rest is history as the BJP headed by Yediyurappa returned to power in the 2008 Assembly polls. Now, he is again in the helm of affairs as the Chief Minister, after the JD(S)-Congress Coalition Government collapsed last year (2019).

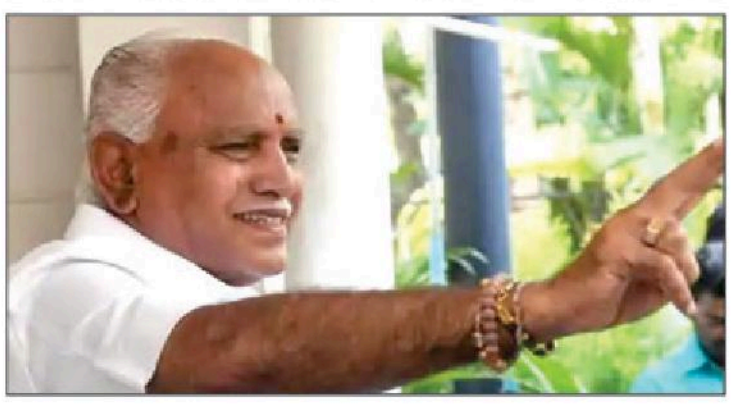
In 2008, Yediyurappa headed the first BJP Govern-ment in South India, during which he launched several outstanding schemes for the welfare of the people and the farmers in particular. His initiatives for the upliftment of rural people, the poor and other oppressed sections of society, had earned nationwide appreciation then. But Yediy-urappa left the party he had built for decades ahead of the 2013 Assembly polls. He returned to the BJP ahead of the 2014 Lok Sabha polls, inspired by the leadership of Narendra Modi, who had reposed great faith in him.

Campaigning along with the then BJP's Prime Ministerial candidate Narendra Modi, Yediyurappa contested the Shivamogga Lok Sabha seat and won by a huge margin of over 3.5 lakh votes. Later, he contested the 2018 Assembly polls from Shikaripura and became the Chief Minister of Karnataka for the third time. But he had to quit after a couple of days after failing to cobble up a majority.

But in a dramatic political development that took place in July last year, the JD (S) - Congress Coalition Government headed by H.D. Kumaraswamy collapsed and B.S.



Yediyurappa became the CM for the fourth time on July 26, 2019. Thus goes the saga of how Yediyurappa transformed himself from being an ordinary Government servant in the 1960s to becoming the Chief Minister of the State for the fourth time now, working for the welfare of the people.



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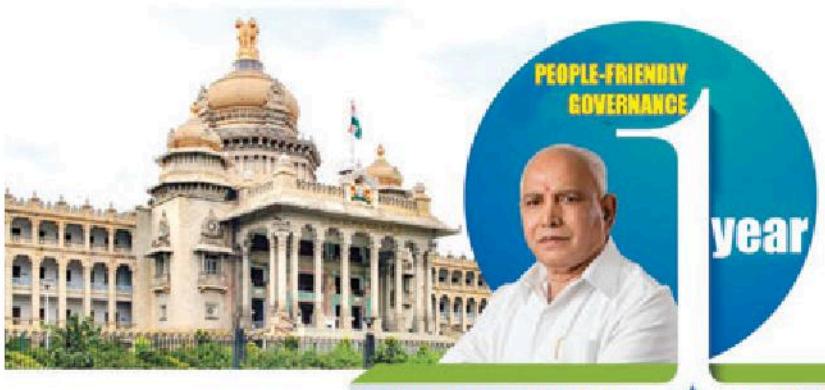


Making Karnataka a top destination for industries

The B.S. Yediyurappa Government has initiated several new policies to facilitate development of micro, small, medium and large industries in the state and revive investor interest towards Karnataka.

The new industries policy (2020-25) is aimed at focussing on making the state a most favourable industrial destination in the country. The policy aims at holistic development of the state by looking beyond Bengaluru, with a view to decongesting the city and ensuring equitable distribution of industries all over the state. The policy also aims at attracting investment in sectors such as automobiles, pharmaceuticals, engineering, knowledge-based industries, cement, steel, energy, defence and logistics among others.

The new industries policy is also aimed at attracting investments to an extent of Rs 5 lakh crore and creates employment for around 2 million. According to Industries Minister Jagadish Shettar, the industrial policy will focus on developing industries in the Tier-II and Tier-III cities of the state. It will encourage investors to favour the establishment of industries in the backward regions and create jobs in the districts.

The Government is also coming out with a new policy to fix rates for land allotted to industries by the Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board. The aim is to set right several anomalies in fixing the rates for the land allotted by the KIADB.

The Government also made changes to the Land Reforms Act, 1961 through an ordinance to buy and own agricultural land. The amend-ment allows non-farmers to buy farmland. The move is aimed at attracting investment in the agriculture sector and increasing food production.

The Government has also planned to develop 10 new industrial townships across the state in an effort to reduce the pressure on industrial areas in Bengaluru. One such estate is planned at Haveri spread over 1,000 acres.

Focus on skill development

The Skill Development Corporation (KSDC) is doing its bit in helping people find jobs amid the crisis. The Department of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and Livelihood, under the purview of which the Karnataka Skill Development Corporation functions, was formerly known as Karnataka Vocational Training and Skill Development Corporation. The corporation seeks to design, develop and implement skill development programmes while taking into account emerging trends in the market.

It also endeavours to conduct training programmes specifically targeting emplo-yment generation, conduct distance learning and e-learning programs in association with Edu-Sat etc, apart from facilitating and regulating employment of skilled labour from Karnataka for overseas employment.

Recently, the corporation held a first-of-its-kind online job mela, bringing together employees and employers on a single platform. What's more, the job mela was conducted via a portal developed in-house by the corporation.

The Skill Connect portal (www.skillconnect.kaushalkar.com), through which the online job mela was held, envisages to connect companies with job seekers. Any interested candidate can register on the website, which also provides added features such as a self-evaluation tab, which will tell the candidate if they have adequate skills or if they should pick up more skills.

This portal was the vision of Deputy Chief Minister C N Ashwath Narayan who is also the minister for skill development. During the launch of the portal, the minister said the portal was developed to bridge the gap between skill availability and industry demand. Until now the Government did not have any comprehensive information on either job seekers or job providers. This portal comes with the promise of being in sync with the market demand.

Not just that, the Govern-ment has also come up with a portal exclusively for migrants who have returned to Karnataka from other places. A person can register on https:// migrantkar.kaushalkar.com, by submitting details of his or her profile. This has come of use to several job seekers who have lost employment during the pandemic and have returned to Karnataka.

The unique aspect of these portals is that it has space for all kinds of jobs beginning from construction work to management professionals. That apart, the skill development corporation is also keen on creating a portal with aggregated skills in the home services sector. This would mean that people in the state can book services like that of electricians, plumbers and drivers, at a pre-decided rate fixed by the Government.

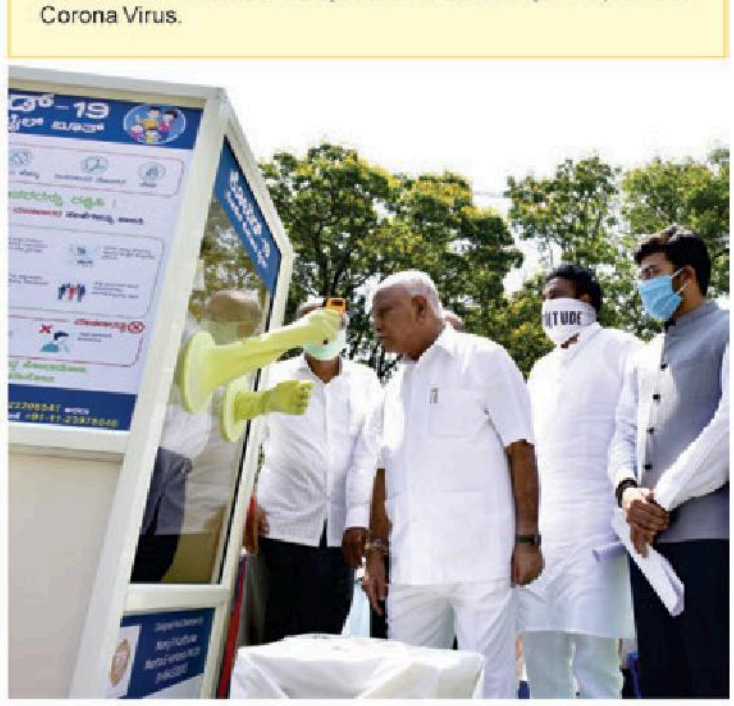
Mass leader BSY personally listens to grievances of COVID-19 victims

This mass leader of Karnataka, who has a farming background, responded to a woman farmer's plight which went viral in social media. The woman had complained of unremunerative prices for her crops, following which the CM directed the Chitradurga Deputy Commissioner to purchase the crops directly from her.

In yet another display of his public commitment during the times of Corona crisis, Yediyurappa, taking note of the plight of a COVID-19 duty nurse from Belagavi, who could not return home even after 15 days to take care of her young child, personally called her to compliment her for showing commitment to work during such trying times.

He also took the lead in building a team of volunteers called Corona Warriors across the State to fight the dreaded COVID-19 pandemic. Besides, he took a host of measures to address COVID-19 issues such as establishment of Quarantine Centres, COVID Care Centres, designated hospitals, enhancement of bed capacity in existing hospitals, engaging private hospitals and the like.

Yediyurappa has also announced Rs. 30 lakh insurance cover for Corona Warriors, in case of death due to COVID. This apart, he has set up a High-level Task Force to constantly monitor the measures being taken for checking the spread of Corona Virus.



Raitha Bandhu Yediyurappa

Even as the farming community is pushed to deep distress following the COVID-19-induced lockdown, "Raitha Bandhu Yediyurappa" came to the rescue of farmers by announcing sops, which included relief of Rs. 6,000 to every farmer and bringing the farming community under Pradhan Mantri Kissan Samman Scheme. Apart from this, he has announced cash subsidy of Rs. 10,000 per hectare, which has benefited thousands of farmers.

Thanks to the initiatives of the State Government, Karnataka stands eighth in the list of Horticultural crops growing States. Besides, the Government has taken a slew of measures for the promotion of Dairy Farming, Sericulture, Organic Farming and a host of other agricultural practices. This apart, the Government is taking measures for improving soil fertility and has set up many soil testing labs for the benefit of farmers.

The BSY Government is focusing on agricultural mechanisation by giving subsidies to farmers for purchase of tractors, farm equipment and other farm machinery. It is also focusing on promoting drip irrigation and other cost-effective farming methods, as a measure to keep with the Prime Minister's promise of doubling farmer's income. No wonder, Bookanakere Siddalingappa Yediyurappa, the first Chief Minister to present a separate Agriculture Budget in 2011, can be called the saviour of farmers in Karnataka.

Advt.

Abracadabra... Abracadabra...

By K.B. Ganapathy

Nostalgically Speaking – 2

Mysore, a Pensioner's Paradise

Now that I have passed on the baton of management of Academy Newspapers Pvt. Ltd., Publishers of *Star of Mysore* and *Mysooru Mithra*, to honour the immortal words of Poet Alfred Lord Tennyson, "The old order changeth yielding place to new, And God fulfills himself in many ways...", besides the fact that I have to kill a lot of time being unemployed, I decided to walk down the memory lane from 1977 when I came to this wonderful city. — **KBG**

Town Hall (Rangacharlu Memorial Hall), Mysore.

When I moved to Mysore for good in 1977, staying in Gokulam hillock with my wife and elder son, this city was known as Pensioner's Paradise. Gokulam hillock area, with a Contour Road, was just developing with unpaved roads and houses far between. There were old people living here suggesting that they were pensioners. In fact, it was so. It was also known as a City of Palaces, Mansions, Gardens and Parks. This was also true.

The old residential layouts had conservancy lanes. Though roads were small, they were well-laid with unpaved footpaths and on either side of major roads huge vacant space was provided keeping in mind the future need for widening the roads. It was also a Green City. There was hardly a road without avenue trees with rich green foliage. Rain trees had huge trunks and massive spread of branches forming a canopy full of shade-giving leaves. There were also Gulmohar trees that would bloom in April-May painting the city red while Jacaranda would brighten the landscape with its yellow flowers that would also carpet the road with withering yellow flowers. Then, there used to be some trees blooming seasonally with unique flowers of violet and other rare colours.

Some of the roads like Valmiki road and the stretch from DC's residence to the Valmiki road junction (Hunsur Road) would look like a green tunnel when you travel by bus, from that height. A feast for our eyes. Yes, indeed it was a Pensioner's Paradise. With the population at six lakh, with the only double road called Chamaraja Double Road, the city was free of pollution and quite peaceful. This double road too was lined with huge avenue trees on either side from the Ramaswamy Circle to the Sanskrit College Junction. As for traffic, city buses were of recent introduction and very few. Famous horse-drawn *Mysore Jatkas* were ubiquitous in good numbers despite the presence of a few autorickshaws. If you wanted a taxi, the booking would be through agents in K.R. Circle or the old private bus stand.

Metropole Hotel was the only iconic hotel where continental cuisine was served, famous for its steaks and good dining. There was a famous Fountain Circle with a popular coffee and snack bar known as *Fountain Cafe* run by a Kodava gentleman. When the traffic increased at this junction, the then Municipal Commissioner Mr. S.D. Seeyam, a young IAS officer, shifted it to the RTO Circle where you can see it today.

CFTRI was a landmark institution and the City Railway Station had its old world look with an architecture that blended with the City of Palaces.

People who came here from Bombay, Madras or Bangalore used to call Mysore as a village town. The residential layouts with many vacant sites used to be without any sound or pollution; the only busy one used to be the Sayyaji Rao Road — that too from K.R. Circle to the Bata Showroom Junction on Dhanvanthri Road. Beyond that it was deserted with the huge building of the Chamarajendra Technical Institute (CTI), the school of fine arts, sculpture and carpentry on one side and the K.R. Hospital on the other side. The Government Ayurveda College at the Irwin Road Junction was a landmark building.

For politicians, to hold their public meetings, the Town Hall ground used to be the venue, while for the theatre-lovers and for indoor meetings, seminars etc., Town Hall was the only place available in the city. Naturally, Town Hall and its premises used to be always crowded and noisy!

As now, then also the Palace used to be the No. 1 attraction for tourists. The action would always be at the North Gate with the famous Anjaneyaswamy temple and the South Gate with parking for tourist buses. Those days there were only two public statues in standing postures under a canopy of Mysore Maharajas — one of Sri Chamaraja Wadiyar in the North Gate under a gold-coated glowing dome and another of Sri Krishnaraja Wadiyar IV at K.R. Circle Junction. There was no D. Devaraja Urs Road that we see today in this junction. It was under construction with a mud road.

Saraswathipuram was a developing layout and there was no Kuvempunagar that we see today. Kamakshi Hospital was considered too far away from even Saraswathipuram! And that was where *Star of Mysore* had its Printing Press. When we recruited employees, some would grumble saying our Press was too far away from city making it a reason for asking more salary! Of course, city bus facility was only up to the nearby Saraswathipuram. This was the story of an unfolding slowly growing city.

It was a time when D. Devaraja Urs was the Chief Minister who was at the crossroads of his political career because of Indira Gandhi losing the elections in 1977 and Janata Party coming to power at Delhi. Being the Congress Chief Minister of long-standing, I think eight years, Devaraja Urs seemed to have crossed the path of the mighty, though fallen at that time, Indira Gandhi for whatever reason and paid for it politically never to come back. His protégé R. Gundu Rao, the dark horse in politics, became the Chief Minister in 1980 through the machination of defection. Our city will always remember R. Gundu Rao because he gave us the architecturally beautiful, imposing Kalamandira, a gift to the theatre people and the city. He also gave us the Sports Complex, Chamundi Vihar Stadium.

From 1983, Congress lost its stranglehold in Karnataka politics. Old order changed yielding place to new political leaders from Janata Party like Ramakrishna Hegde, H.D. Deve Gowda and J.H. Patel. Mysore district was declared a backward-district industrially by Devaraja Urs and industrialists were given many concessions to attract them to Mysore district. Even my Press got Rs. 15,000 as seed capital at 4% interest which was paid after a decade, more to get that 'liability' entry in the balance sheet removed than to clear the liability for which the Government never made any serious demand!

When I came here, it was a Municipality with a Government-nominated IAS Officer as Commissioner. D. Devaraja Urs did not believe in elections for local bodies — City Municipalities or Town Panchayats. Some years later it became a Corporation. So also the city planning body — City Improvement Trust Board (CITB). Many years later it became Mysore Urban Development Authority (MUDA). But, by 1990, the Pensioner's Paradise was gradually turning into the Paradise of landsharks, apartment builders and industrialists. MUDA was put to sleep with a purpose by the successive Governments.

Politicians began to form layouts and establish educational institutions including medical and engineering colleges under *benami* or family Trusts.

It was during the first term of D. Devaraja Urs as CM, Mysore District was declared an industrially backward district. Following this new industries did not come as expected because of poor road and rail connections. It was still narrow-gauge from Bangalore to Mysore and there was no air connectivity.

The only major industry to come up was Vikrant Industries Ltd., promoted by one R.B. Jesudasen. I remember its promoters coming to my brother's house requesting him to buy some shares. And, I think, he obliged them.

Later when the factory ran into difficulties, the Karnataka Government took it over and now it is with J.K. Tyre, a Public Limited Company.

Hebbal industrial area along with the new ones became the destination for many industries, changing the face and character of the city. The proposed Green Belt for city beyond the radius of 20-km disappeared and in its place came the Ring Road and Private Layouts. And the Pensioner's Paradise was LOST.

NOTE: *Nostalgically Speaking - 1 on Dr. K.B. Subbaiah was published on July 19. Watch out for Nostalgically Speaking - 3 on Mr. Srikantadatta Narasimharaja Wadiyar next week.*—**Ed**

e-mail
kbg@starofmysore.com

Mysureans prefer to stay indoors on fourth Sunday lockdown

K.T. Street

Ashoka Road

Santhepet

City Bus Stand

Mysuru, July 26 (MTY&KS)- With Mysureans voluntarily observing a bandh to prevent the spread of COVID-19 (Coronavirus), the fourth Sunday lockdown in city was a complete success this morning as all commercial establishments, offices, business enterprises and other commercial activities were shut down for the day. The Government has declared total lockdown across the State on all Sundays from July 5 to Aug. 2.

KSRTC had suspended all bus services for the day and autos, taxis, cabs and other mode of public transport too were off the roads. Barring hospitals, clinics, medical shops, grocery shops, fruit and vegetable stalls and such other essential service shops, all other commercial activities were closed. However, meat shops were open as it comes under the list of essential commodities.

Major commercial roads such as D. Devaraj Urs Road, Dhanvantri Road, K.T. Street and other roads wore a deserted look as all commercial establishments were closed. City Bus Stand and Sub-Urban Bus Stand also wore a deserted look and the entry and exit points were barricaded.

Unlike the previous three Sundays, where Police used to stop vehicles especially two-wheeler riders and ask them to go back, Police manning city roads today were relaxed a bit as only a handful number of vehicles that too vehicles transporting essential commodities and emergency vehicles were seen on the road. But the Police are keeping a vigil on vehicles entering Mysuru.

With no people, most of the hotels in city had downed shutters and only canteens at a few hospitals were open to cater to the needs of patients and their caretakers.

Today's lockdown is central to the 35-hour curfew, starting from 6 pm yesterday to 5 am tomorrow (July 27).

Boti Bazar closed for fourth day as vendor dies of COVID

Mysuru, July 26 (MTY&SD)- Boti Bazar (mutton market) area on Aane Sarot Road in the heart of the city remained closed for the fourth day today as one of the vendors who had been tested positive for COVID-19 succumbed to infection yesterday.

Health Department staff sprayed disinfectants in the area. According to reports, Boti Bazar will be opened from tomorrow.

The Boti Bazar, located adjacent to Devaraja Market, has over 30 to 40 meat, fish and wholesale fruit shops.

One of the meat vendors, who had been ill for the last 10 days, was tested positive for Coronavirus a few days ago, but reportedly succumbed to the illness yesterday.

As a precautionary measure, Since Thursday, Corporation had closed down the Boti Bazar. Otherwise bustling street on any normal day, including Sunday being the busiest day for meat vendors, the area wore a deserted look this morning.

Speaking to *Star of Mysore*, Secretary of Mysore Mutton Merchants Association Nagendra said, "Though there has been a death, other merchants need not worry about infection spread. The Corporation has closed down the area from the last three days as a precautionary measure. The area has already been sanitised thrice by the health officials including the sanitisation drive undertaken by them this morning."

Dr. Bhanuprakash Sharma appointed as Director of KSBDB

Mysuru, July 26- Dr. Bhanuprakash Sharma has been appointed by the Government as Director of Karnataka State Brahmin Development Board (KSBDB) and an order has been issued by M.L. Varalakshmi, Under-Secretary to Muzrai Department.

Dr. Bhanuprakash Sharma

Accordingly, Dr. Bhanuprakash Sharma has been appointed as Director of KSBDB, which proposes to take up and implement schemes for the development of financially backward section of the community including education, skill development, self-employment and basic amenities.

KRS Water Level

(Maximum : 124.80 feet)

Today	107.10 ft
Yesterday	107.64 ft
Inflow	2,798 cusecs
Outflow	6,041 cusecs

Kabini Level

(Maximum : 2,284.00 feet)

Today	2,276.92 ft
Inflow	2,729 cusecs
Outflow	2,500 cusecs

Harangi Level

(Maximum : 2,859.00 feet)

Today	2,856.68 ft
Inflow	1,289 cusecs
Outflow	50 cusecs

Obituary

Dr. Zeb Waturuocha

Mysuru, July 26- Dr. Zeb Waturuocha (67), Psychologist at Indian Society for Applied Behavioural Science (ISABS) and a resident of N.R. Mohalla passed away yesterday following cardiac arrest.

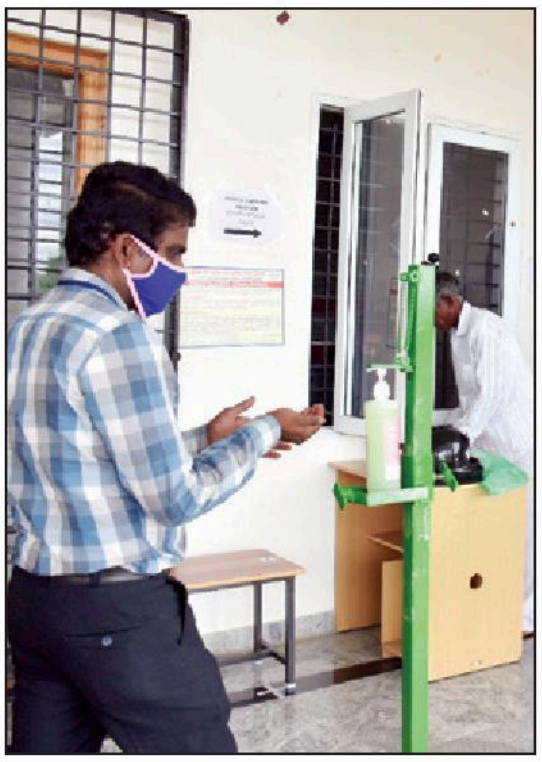
He leaves behind his wife, two daughters, one son and a host of relatives and friends.

Funeral was held at St. Bartholomew's Church Cemetery, next to St. Philomena's High School on Mysuru-Bengaluru Road yesterday evening.

RTOs resume DL tests

(Continued from Page 1)

Tests under precautions



Candidates without masks are not allowed to appear for the tests while for DL test, the Transport Department officials have ensured sanitisation of the vehicle before the test. Apart from reducing quotas for DL and LLR test, the Department has also altered seating arrangements and kept at least one or two seats empty between two candidates.

"We are strictly following social distance norms and this include the process of taking photos for LLRs and DLs. In the earlier system, the candidate and the officer who took his photos came face-to-face. Now to avoid close contact, the camera has been fitted to a window and the photos are clicked," said K.S. Soundarya, RTO East.

Limited online slots

However, the new online system is a disadvantage for computer illiterates who have to fall back on agents to book a slot. "Usually the slots open at 9 am and are closed within seconds. Again we have to re-apply or pay the agent money to book a slot," said Subhash, a resident of Vijayanagar who has tried booking slots at least 5 times.

The online slot booking is a disadvantage for driving schools in Mysuru. Arjun, manager of Aishwarya Driving School told *SOM* that limited slots daily for DL and LLR tests has made them to reduce the number of candidates. The online test will be conducted once the officials complete the arrangements in Sarathi software for driving tests.

"The slots are taken within seconds and this has resulted in loss of revenue to the RTO. Now that there is a pandemic situation, we can't do much. Hope things will get better in the future," he said.

Shelter for candidates

Apart from ensuring social distance at the RTO Offices and the Automated Driving Test Track, the RTO East has plans to provide shelter for candidates when they stand in a queue outside the Automated Track. At present, candidates are forced to stand in the open outside the testing centre building under hot sun or under rain. "We are planning to construct shelter rows outside the building so that candidates waiting for their turn are protected from sun and rain," RTO Soundarya said.

K.S. Soundarya

Thermal screening at every step

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Plea to clear weeds and plants on Shankar Mutt Road

A building on Shankar Mutt Road in Fort Mohalla is slowly turning into a haunted house as a lot of weeds and plants are growing on this dilapidated structure. Also garbage is being dumped in the open space of the dilapidated structure making it a place for mosquitoes and reptiles to breed. Residents of the surrounding areas have urged the authorities concerned to take necessary steps to solve the problems at the earliest.

Sewage water overflowing from a manhole at Rajivnagar

Sewage water is overflowing from a manhole near Shaheda Masjid in Rajivnagar 2nd Stage and has become stagnant at a distance. This is emanating foul smell and there is a fear of outbreak of diseases due to it. Residents alleged that though complaints were lodged many times, no action has been taken till date. Authorities concerned are urged to take steps to get the manhole cleaned immediately.

MLA Ramdas instils confidence among public in fight against COVID-19

Mysuru, July 26 (SBD&DM)- With the District Administration taking all possible measures to prevent the spread of the deadly COVID-19, KR MLA S.A. Ramdas, who heads the Task Force in his Constituency, has said that he has started instilling confidence among the members of the public in the fight against the pandemic.

Stressing on the need for putting precautionary and safety measures in place all across the KR Assembly segment on a war-footing, Ramdas said the third COVID-19 testing centre has started functioning at J.P. Nagar Primary Health Centre (PHC) from Friday, along with the other two at Makkala Koota premises in Krishnamurthypuram and Bodyguard Lane PHC at Jockey Quarters.

Pointing out that ambulance service has been launched on a full scale in order to ferry primary and secondary contacts of COVID-19 suspects to Test Centres and Hospitals, he said that it was more important to ensure that the virus does not spread.

Ramdas further said that there are a total of 115 Containment Zones in KR Assembly segment and all of them are being sanitised daily. Also health checkups are being conducted on the residents of these Containment Zones and an officer has been appointed for ensuring grocery and other supplies to the residents, he added.

DHO Dr. R. Venkatesh, THO Dr. Mahadevaprasad, Nodal Officer Jayasimha, Corporators Shantamma Vadivelu and Sharadamma Eshwar, BJP leaders M. Vadivelu, Nagendra, Girish and others were present at the MLA's programme.

Vishwanath promises creation of 'Devaraja Urs District' in Hunsur

Hunsur, July 26 (KK&DM)- Two days after he was nominated to the Legislative Council, senior BJP leader and former Minister A.H.Vishwanath visited Hunsur on Friday and garlanded the bust of former Chief Minister D.Devaraja Urs at the entrance of the town.

Later addressing party workers at the BJP Office in the town, Vishwanath, who was earlier a Hunsur MLA, said that it was the people of Hunsur who gave him a political re-birth after he lost the Lok Sabha polls in 2014.

Promising that he would strive for creation of Devaraja Urs District out of Mysuru District, with Hunsur as Headquarters, the newly-nominated MLC said that he would work for the overall growth of Hunsur without bothering to care for criticisms or allegations.

Earlier, Vishwanath was accorded a warm welcome on his arrival, with supporters bursting crackers and distributing sweets.

Taluk BJP President Nagannagowda, Town President Ganesh Kumaraswamy, office-bearers Yoganandakumar, Haraave Ravikumar, Venkatamma, Neema Srinivas and others were present.

Farmers to protest against Land Reforms Act on Aug. 8

Mysuru, July 26 (PM&SD)- Members of Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha (KRRS) and Hasiru Sene will be staging protest all across the State on Aug. 8, opposing the amendments to the Land Reforms Act-1961.

Addressing a press meet at Pathrakarthara Bhavan in city on Saturday, President of Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha Badagalapura Nagendra said, "On Quit India Movement Day which will be observed across the country on Aug. 8, we are going to hold protests all over the State. We are going to stage protest in one village in each district of the State on that day by holding placards *'Land, Not for Sale'*. On Aug. 15, which is our Independence Day, over 200 farmers will be holding Satyagraha in front of the Gandhi Statue in Bengaluru for two hours by holding placards and raising slogans against this unacceptable amendment."

"Noted writer Devanur Mahadeva has extended support to us, but we are urging him to take the leadership of this movement and guide us," said Badagalapura Nagendra

Columbia Asia Hospital doctors, staff donate blood to create awareness during COVID pandemic

Mysuru, July 26- As part of Kargil Vijay Diwas today and to meet the growing demand for blood components due to COVID-19 pandemic, Columbia Asia Hospital's doctors and staff members volunteered and donated blood. The hospital took this initiative in order to spread awareness and urge everyone to play their role in saving lives during the pandemic.

Around 75 employees of the hospital including the General Manager, doctors, nurses and other staff members donated blood voluntarily.

Col. Rahul Tewari, General Manager, Columbia Asia Hospital, Mysuru, inaugurated the programme. Speaking on the occasion, he said, "Blood donation is very critical during the time of COVID-19 and there is a need to educate people about the importance of donating blood for those in need. There is severe crisis in most of the blood banks. Due to COVID, there is shortage of blood everywhere as donors are skeptic to visit any blood donation centre. Through this event we want to create awareness and educated people on safe blood donation and urge everyone to come forward and save lives."

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